

IN THE CLAIMS (as originally filed):

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method for controlling a vending machine in which goods can be placed into storage compartments and can be subsequently removed from the storage compartments by customers, offer-related data are recorded in a central data processing unit, whereby matching offers are associated with identical offer identification codes, the offer identification codes are transmitted to a plurality of electronic vending machines, storage compartments are provided for the distribution of goods are stocked with goods, and offer identification codes associated with the goods are recorded, the method comprising the steps of

(a) storing data for controlling the vending machine in the central data processing unit, converting this data into control commands for controlling the vending machine, and transmitting the control commands to the vending machine,

(b) in the case where the stored data are changed, transmitting control commands to the vending machine to change the operating parameters of the vending machine, said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of at least selling times, prices, offer contents, offers as a function of user groups, and the number of operating functions, and

(c) interacting the control commands with an electronic control unit located in the area of the vending machine so as to change the selection of the available operating functions wherein a first operating function entails the use of the compartments for a vending system and a second operating function entails the use of the compartments for a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21, comprising transmitting the placement of the goods into the vending machines to the central data processing unit.

23. (New) The method of Claim 21, comprising displaying the filling of the compartments with the goods by means of a graphic display unit.

24. (New) The method of Claim 21, comprising reserving goods in individual compartments for a certain period of time.

25. (New) The method of Claim 21, comprising storing in at least one of the central data processing unit and in the vending machine, information about different user groups of the vending machine and information about the selection of individual offers a function of the appertaining user groups.

26. (New) The method of Claim 21, comprising transporting mailpieces to the vending machines, placing and storing mailpieces in at least some of the storage compartments for later pick-up, recording the mailpieces by the vending machine and removing the mailpieces from the storage compartments at a later point in time and transporting the mailpieces to a destination.

27. (New) A vending machine with storage compartments for storing goods, comprising a central data processing unit (CPU) connected to the vending machine and an electronic control unit located in the area of the vending machine, the CPU comprising means for flexibly allocating the storage compartments for at least one of a vending system and a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods, whereby the allocation means can

generate control commands and can transmit them to the vending machines, and the control commands interact with the electronic control unit in such a manner that the selection of the available operating functions is changed, and wherein a first operating function entails the use of the compartments for a vending system and a second operating function entails the use of the compartments for a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods.